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Editors’ Foreword

Welcome to the 48th *Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies*.

The Seminar for Arabian Studies has come a long way since 1968 when it was first convened, yet it remains the principal international academic forum for research on the Arabian Peninsula. This is clearly reflected in the ever-increasing number of researchers from all over the world who come each year to the three-day Seminar to present and discuss their latest research and fieldwork.

The Seminar has covered, and continues to cover, an extensive range of diverse subjects that include anthropology, archaeology, architecture, art, epigraphy, ethnography, history, language, linguistics, literature, numismatics, theology, and more, from the earliest times to the present day or, in the fields of political and social history, to around the end of the Ottoman Empire (1922/1923).

The Seminar also regularly hosts a special session focusing on a specific aspect of the humanities on the Arabian Peninsula, allowing for a range of specialists to present their research to a wider audience. This year’s special session entitled ‘Languages, scripts and their uses in ancient North Arabia’ also formed part of the celebration for the completion of Phase 2 of the Online Corpus of the Inscriptions of Ancient North Arabia.

The yearly publication of the *Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies*, now in its 48th iteration, stands testimony to the tireless efforts of the editorial and production team, the editorial and steering committees, peer reviewers, and the many contributors to the volume, all of whom have had to work to very tight production deadlines to ensure that the *Proceedings* are published in time for the next Seminar.

Papers presented at the Seminar have all been subjected to an intensive review process before they are accepted for publication in the Proceedings. The rigorous nature of the reviews undertaken by a range of specialists ensures that the highest academic standards are maintained, and consequently not all papers presented are accepted for publication.

The Editorial team would like to extend its thanks to the Editorial and Steering Committees, whose extended range of expertise and support have been fundamental in the production of each years *Proceedings*. We would also like to thank the authors, for both their contributions and their help during the production period, when many are engaged in fieldwork and/or are away in remote locations. We would like to make a special mention of our copy-editor, Helen Knox, whose attention to detail and cheerful and patient disposition cannot be faulted, and Rajka Makjanic and David Davison of Archaeopress, whose professionalism and kindness in sorting out production issues is really appreciated.

For more information about the Seminar for Arabian Studies please contact Dan Eddisford (seminar.arab@thebfsa.org), Seminar for Arabian Studies, The British Museum, Middle East Department, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG, UK, and/or visit the Seminar website at www.thebfsa.org/seminar. The British Foundation for the Study of Arabia (BFSA) is a charitable organization that exists to advance public knowledge through the promotion of research relating to the cultural and natural heritage of the Arabian Peninsula. The BFSA publishes an annual bulletin in the spring; for further information about the BFSA, please contact Carolyn Perry, Chair of the BFSA, by emailing contact@thebfsa.org and/or visit the BFSA website at www.thebfsa.org/.

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April 2018

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